In Bentiu, Internews’ Humanitarian Information Service (HIS) implements a communicating with communities (CwC) program to increase information sharing. The program operates Kondial 97.2 FM, a humanitarian radio station inside the Bentiu PoC, conducting listening groups to gather community feedback. If you have information to be shared with the PoC or humanitarians, please contact: Humanitarian Project Manager Nimaya Manasseh (nmanasseh@internews.org) or Team Leader Pout Tuo (ptuor@internews.org).

What We Heard This Week
Feedback from the Community

Property Destroyed by Fires
Participants in a listening group reported that fires in Sector 2, Block 16 burned their shelters and much of their property. They request IOM’s urgent assistance in their recovery. Participants did make a specific appeal to agencies to provide blankets. “My children and I have no sleeping mats” explained one woman.

Adults & Youth, Location: Sector 2

Lack of Sanitary Equipment
Cleaners in Sector 1-5 in Bentiu PoC reported a lack materials to clean latrines such as masks, gloves and soap. They requested WASH partners provide them with such materials as quickly as possible.

Adults Location: Sector 1-5 Bentiu PoC

Dilapidated Latrines
In Sector 5 Block 2 of the Bentiu PoC camp, concerns were raised over collapsing latrines, leading to open defecation outside of the block. One participant noted: “We are afraid of disease outbreaks if people continue to do it.” They requested WASH partners to dig more latrines.

Adult Male & Youth, Location: Sector 5

Inadequate Educational Resources
Both youth and adults are requesting education cluster support as, according to one 36-year-old man, there are currently “shortages of scholastic materials in our Early Childhood Development (ECD)” programs. Further, they requested at least two additional classrooms in order to mitigate overcrowding classrooms.

Adults and Youth, Location: Sector 5 Block 5 Bentiu PoC

Coronavirus Rumors & Chickenpox Fears
Adults and youth in one listening group expressed growing fears related to rumors circulating about COVID-19. They requested that health providers implement preventive measures throughout the camp. Additionally, the threat of chickenpox has alarmed some individuals. They request health partners to provide immediate medical attention to control the spread of the disease.

Adults & Youth, Location: Sectors 1-5 Bentiu PoC

This week Internews collected 87 unique of feedbacks:
- (15-25 years) 5%
- (26-60 years) 95%

Internews interacted with people through:
- Community Metting 14%
- Informal Meetings 17%

Data collected from interactions with non-unique individuals:
- Females (31%)
- Males (69%)
PEACE FORUM: COMMUNITY TO FOCUS ON GRASSROOTS PEACE GATHERINGS

Last year, communities in Greater Bentiu requested support in facilitating peaceful initiatives at a grassroots level. In response, the UN-Civil Affairs Department transported 10 individuals from 10 states to participate in the Juba Peace Forum. One participant proclaimed the need for preaching peace to the local communities. He added that in the last two years, people have focused on the Juba Peace Agreement, but neglected rural communities. While appearing on Jamjang FM, a UN Civil Affairs official said that a plan is underway to engage community leaders through more peace conferences.

AGRICULTURAL PROGRAM: SUPPORT FARMERS WITH VEGETABLE SEEDS

Local farmers in Rubkona, Bentiu town and Bentiu PoC requested FSL partners’ support in cultivating food. To which, DRC and other FSL agencies pledged the continued support for community efforts that boost agricultural production and community incomes at least through the end of 2020. Farmers then expressed their gratitude for DRC’s support. On the same radio show, traditional court representatives advised communities in Unity State to prioritize food production in order to boost food security and minimize the threat of poverty.

TOPIC: DISCUSSION ON PROMOTION OF Nuer LANGUAGE IN SCHOOLS

A discussion on Kondial FM regarding the teaching and use of the Nuer language throughout the community was well-received. The radio program encouraged children to study in their mother tongue, which would make other languages easy to learn. The program featured eight callers and each encouraged young people to improve their knowledge of Nuer by speaking and studying it. A number of participants even encouraged members of other ethnic groups to continue studying their native tongues.

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Resume Night Patrolling

Some refugees in Ajuong Thok reported that the halting of nightly police patrols has led to an increase in the number of thefts and robberies in the camp. They requested that Ajuong Thok refugee camp police resume night patrols to deter crime.

Adults, Location: Block 46, Ajuong Thok

Help Us Backfill Pits

While families in Ajuong Thok refugee camp appreciated the services provided by UNHCR, they said the increasing number of pits in the residential areas poses a serious danger to children, especially during the rainy season. “We are asking UNHCR’s protection unit to help protect our children from drowning,” said one refugee.

Adults, Location: Block 35, Ajuong Thok

Help Us with More Latrines

Refugee families expressed their gratitude to Samaritan’s Purse for the latrines that were dug for them. They noted, however, that the latrines are full and called upon the department of WASH at Samaritan’s Purse to dig new ones. This, they said, will help avoid open defecation and associated disease outbreaks.

Adults, Location: Block 35, Ajuong Thok

More Areas Being Deserted in Yida

Families from the Sudanese refugee community in Yida settlement said that most of the people who were residing in blocks 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 19 and 20 agreed to be relocated to Ajuong Thok and Pamir refugee camps. A lack of humanitarian services in the area triggered this response, leaving the aforementioned blocks empty.

Adults, Location: Yida Settlement

Continue Sensitizing the Community About COVID-19

Students at Napata Primary School said teachers told them to avoid handshaking and physical contact to prevent the spread of COVID-19. Still, the students suggested that this information needs to be spread using radio for it to be able to reach the highest number of community members.

Pupils, Location: Block 39, Ajuong Thok

Provide Us with Marrum

Residents in Ajuong Thok refugee camp are thankful to DRC for their support and they remain hopeful that DRC will still provide them with previously-promised marrum for brick production before the rainy season begins.

Adults, Location: Block 46, Ajuong Thok
Jamjang 89.4 FM
Weekly Program Highlights

PROTECTION: IRC’s SESSION ON GENDER EQUALITY IN AJUONG THOK
Several members of the community in Ajuong Thok have provided Jamjang FM’s community correspondents feedback on a lack of gender sensitivity. In response, IRC organized a session on gender equality, which was covered by Jamjang FM and packaged into a radio program. Speaking to Jamjang FM, the Deputy Women’s Protection and Empowerment Manager at IRC appealed to the community to advocate for increased representation among women and overall gender equity. Youth interviewed after the session praised the program, saying it enhanced their awareness and went on to affirm their intent to combat gender inequality.

EDUCATION: INAUGURATION OF ADULT EDUCATION CLASSES IN AJUONG THOK
Jamjang FM produced an education-themed radio program focused on the inauguration of volunteer teachers for adult education classes. While appearing on the radio program during the inauguration, one of the teachers said that they registered 350 learners. The teacher was inspired to volunteer after humanitarian agencies’ ceased offering courses due to lack of funding. The Ajuong Thok Camp chairperson noted his appreciation for the teachers’ devotion to educating their own people. He appealed to the adults to take advantage to the free service.

HEALTH: INDOORS RESIDUAL SPRAYING CAMPAIGN IN AJUONG THOK
Fumigation was carried out by Mentor Initiative in Ajuong Thok and Pamir refugee camps to address rising concerns over the proliferation of insects heading into the rainy season. The Indoors Residual Spraying campaign mainly targeted insects that might contribute to the spread of diseases. The Mentor Initiative area manager told Jamjang FM that another IRS campaign would be carried out in both camps this April with the help of 96 community members trained in IRS implementation. He encouraged families to be at home during the campaign.

HOW THE COMMUNITY SHOULD BENEFIT FROM FREE BUSINESS SKILLS TRAININGS
A radio program on livelihoods hosted the UNHCR Field Associate who told Jamjang FM that 50 beneficiaries were selected for business skills training. He stressed that shrinking resources led to the reduction in the number of beneficiaries from 100 to 50, yet he appealed to those that were selected to show commitment during training. Ajuong Thok camp Chairperson expressed gratitude to the International Rescue Committee for offering business training to the refugees and members of the host community.

Community Feedback
Internews Jamjang collects feedback on a weekly basis through listening groups, over the phone or by SMS and through direct interactions our staff have with community members. The chart below illustrates the overall categories in which feedback was collected this period.
What We Heard This Week
Feedback from the Community

We Need Awareness On COVID-19
COVID-19 topped concerns in Maban, with refugees in Gendrassa and Zone A Doro camps requesting humanitarians to circulate more thorough information on the rapidly-spreading virus. They added that the best time to broadcast awareness messages is when people are queuing at health facilities and food distribution centers.

Adults, Location: Gendrassa Refugee Camp

Taps in Water Stand Not Working Properly
The refugee Community of Sheikh Eid Atom area of Kukur in Gendrassa camp raised concerns about a water point in their area with malfunctioning taps and request ACTED’s help is resolving the matter. In addition, they said washing basins are broken and need renovation.

Adults, Location: Kukur, Gendrassa Camp

Random Slaughter Affecting Environment
Refugees in Zone A of Doro camp expressed concerns over butchers indiscriminately slaughtering animals with little regard for their surroundings, and the potential environmental impact this may have on the community. They are requesting the support of ACTED’s hygiene department and the CCCM of DRC to help resolve the issue.

Adults, Location: Zone A Doro Camp

Vending Food in Unhealthy Environments
Refugees in Zone A of Doro camp said that they sell food items on dirty grounds. They asked DRC to help raise awareness and to reorganize the market to make it more hygienic.

Adults, Location: Zone A Doro Camp

Request for New ECD Centers
Mothers on the Western side of Gendrassa worry about their children traveling to the Sahhied Afendi ECD center, given the passage of motorbikes on the road and the risk of child-involved accidents. They also fear rabid dogs and request the Lutheran World Foundation to build ECD centers closer to their homes.

Adult Females, Location: Western Site, Gendrassa Camp

Request for Fences and Latrines at the ECD Centers
Parents with children in the Early Child Development Centers in Gendrassa refugee camp said some of the ECD centers run by Save the Children are not fenced. They requested SCI to build fencing around the centers to protect children and build latrines to avoid open defecation.

Adults, Location: Gendrassa Camp

This week Internews collected 55 unique feedbacks:
(Ages 15-25) 34% (Ages 26-35) 50% (Ages 36-45 yrs) 16%

Internews interacted with people through:
• Listening Group 91%
• Informal Meeting 9%

Data collected from:
Females (69%)
Males (31%)

Photo @Internews

LWF Education Coordinator talking to a Radio Salam community correspondent about their plans to help students improve their academic performance next year.
Feedback from parents indicates that a substantial number of primary school students failed examinations. The Lutheran World Foundation Education Coordinator attributes this to unprecedented flooding that gripped the area last year. The official confirmed plans to help students improve their academic performance next year, however, in part through the administration of bi-monthly tests to monitor and evaluate student progress. In an interview with a number of students who failed the exams, some expressed surprise at the results saying they thought they performed well; others meanwhile, expressed their willingness to re-sit the exams next year.
What We Heard This Week
Feedback from the Community

Provide Coronavirus Testing Kits
Residents from two locations requested that the health cluster provide them with Covid-19 testing kits to test those coming from high-risk countries. They also appealed to the cluster to provide face masks that protect against the virus.

Adults & Youths, Location: PoC & Malakal Town

Repaired Water Tap
School children in the PoC appreciated the IOM-WASH department repairs of the water tap at World Vision school. They said the water point provides them with drinking water at school.

Children, Location: Sector 1, 2, 3 & 4

Renovate Our Shelters Before the Rains
The residents of the PoC requested humanitarian agencies to start renovating their shelters before the rainy season because plastic sheets have been damaged by extreme heat.

Adults & Youth, Location: Sector 4

Thanks for Re-opening The CWG Center
The Malakal PoC residents thanked DRC for facilitating the re-opening of the Community Watch Group (CWG) center. They said opening the center will help reduce criminal activities in the PoC.

Adults & Youths, Location: Sector 3

Teach Us Handicraft Making
For the second time, women and girls in Malakal town expressed interest in making handicrafts but they lack the skills. They requested any agency willing to teach them, to do so.

Adults & Youths, Location: Malakal Town

Thanks for The Food Rations
Community members from Malakal town and Malakal PoC appreciated the World Vision and WFP for distributing food rations on time. They encouraged the two organizations to keep up the good work to alleviate suffering.

Adults & Youths, Location: PoC & Malakal Town

Ambulance Services Needed
The residents of Malakal Town requested the health cluster to provide an ambulance to help ferry patients to health facilities.

Adults & Youths, Location: Malakal Town

March 26, 2020
Internews
Malakal e-Bulletin

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The food distribution committee representative speaks to Nile FM community correspondent during food distribution in PoC - Photo@Internews

This week Internews collected 164 unique feedbacks:
(Age 11-25) 17%
(Age 26-35) 36%
(Age 36-60+) 42%
(Age 60+) 5%

Internews interacted with people through:
Call-In 8%
Informal Meetings 40%
Community Meetings 8%
Listening Groups 44%

Data collected from:
Females 53%
Males 47%
HEALTH PROGRAM: THE ADVANTAGES OF BLOOD DONATION

Blood donation has always generated rumors and misinformation within the IDP communities, resulting in a general unwillingness to donate. Appearing on Nile FM’s Health Program, an MSF laboratory technician encouraged the community to donate, noting that it’s necessary to save lives. He noted that donating blood has no adverse effects on a person’s health. Furthermore, individuals of all color, tribes and religion can donate.

WOMEN & GIRLS PROGRAM: THE ROLE OF WOMEN IN SUPPORTING GIRLS’ EDUCATIONS

On Nile FM’s Women & Girls’ program, community members shared ideas on supporting girls’ education. One woman spoke of the important roles women play raising children, including ensuring they have access to education. Another woman encouraged educated people to support less educated women by opening special adult education centers. Meanwhile, a man participant urged families to avoid traditional practices that allow parents to unenroll girls from school to marry them off for dowries.

WASH PROGRAM: THE IMPORTANCE OF HANDWASHING

In an attempt to protect against the spread of COVID-19, the IOM-WASH department raised awareness about the importance of handwashing on Nile FM’s WASH program. An IOM Hygiene Promotion Assistant explained that it is very important for everyone to wash their hands before cooking, eating, breastfeeding and after visiting the toilet.